

Message Text

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SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY. THE AFTERNOON MEETING OF PLENARY, JULY 11, CONSISTED OF SPEECHES BY WORLD BANK, JAPAN, FRANCE, GREECE, PAKISTAN, AND WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. THE FIRST FOUR SPEAKERS ENDORSED THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CONCEPT. END SUMMARY.

2. WORLD BANK REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT GOALS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO LDCS IN ORDER TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED. AID SHOULD BE DIVERTED TO POOREST COUNTRIES FROM MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES, WITH LOSSES BEING OFFSET BY MORE FAVORABLE TRADE RELATIONS. THE WORLD BANK IS EXPLORING NEW SOURCES AND METHODS OF FINANCING, PARTICULARLY THROUGH PRIVATE LENDING AND CO-FINANCING TECHNIQUES. BANK PROGRAMS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SMALL ENTERPRISE.

3. JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE ABE SPOKE ON THE NEED TO "EXPAND WORLD TRADE WHILE AVOIDING PROTECTIONISM," EMPHASIZING THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMIES. CIEC HAD OVERCOME SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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PRINCIPLE DIFFICULTIES IN RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON FUND TO STABILITY OF RAW MATERIAL MARKETS, THE NEED FOR INCREASED AID TO LDCS, AND THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAM TO MITIGATE THE INTERNATIONAL DEBTS OF POOREST COUNTRIES. THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE NEEDS TO ASSIST IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PRODUCTION, IN MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, AND IN RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUALITY OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND NEEDS IN DIFFERENT

COUNTRIES. JAPAN, HE SAID, "WELCOMES INTENSIVE EFFORTS BY THE UN TO ELIMINATE CORRUPT PRACTICES ALONG THE LINES OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS" OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CORRUPT PRACTICES. LIKEWISE, RESTRUCTURING THE UN IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN.

4. REPRESENTATIVE DUMAS OF FRANCE DISCUSSED THE "LACK OF PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREAS," CITING PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIES, AND BALANCE OF PAYMENT DEFICITS IN NON-OPEC THIRD WORLD. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE CONCEPT OF A NIEO HAS GAINED GROUND SINCE 1974. CIEC WAS SUCCESSFUL IN RECOGNIZING NEED FOR INCREASED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT, NEEDS OF POOREST COUNTRIES AND PRINCIPLE OF A COMMON BUFFER STOCK OF COMMODITIES. ADDITIONAL PROGRESS WAS MADE IN OPENING AND CONTINUING THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE. CONCLUDING, HE SAID THAT "WE TAKE NOTE WITH INTEREST WHAT THE SYG SAID" ON ISSUE OF ENERGY.

5. GREEK REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE AT LENGTH ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, NOTING THEIR SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL AND COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING WORLD. HE ENDORSED IDEA OF MEETING BASIC NEEDS, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH LACK OF PROGRESS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. AMB YOUNG'S STATEMENT WAS "QUITE ENCOURAGING" TO GREECE, AS WAS US WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER MODIFYING THE ROLE OF THE SDR. SYG'S ENERGY PROPOSAL "DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION."

6. YUNUS SPOKE FOR PAKISTAN ON THE "ALARMING SITUATION OF VIRTUAL UNCLASSIFIED

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STAGNATION" IN THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE CRITICIZED THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR FALLING 50 PERCENT SHORT OF THE AGREED ASSISTANCE TARGET OF 0.7 PERCENT OF GNP. THE BALANCE OF PAYMENT SITUATION AMOUNTS TO A "CRISIS." CIEC, WHILE FURTHERING THE DIALOGUE, MADE NO PROGRESS IN INCREASING OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, PROVIDING ACCESS TO MARKETS, PROTECTING THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE EXPORT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, REFORMING THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM, OR PROMOTING INDUSTRIALIZATION AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. HE SAID THAT "WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE MORE POSITIVE REFERENCE MADE BY THE DISTINGUISHED AMB OF THE US TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." ADMITTING THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT LIES WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES, HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TOWARD THE GOAL OF COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE. RATHER THAN THOUGHT PROVIDING FOR "BASIC HUMAN NEEDS," ASSISTANCE SHOULD PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR GROWTH, SEEKING TO SPREAD TECHNOLOGY AND TO CREATE A SELF-GENERATING SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. HE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT SOCIAL WELFARE IS FINANCED BY ECONOMIC GROWTH. HE CALLED FOR STRENGTHENING UNCTAD AND FOR THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO COME UP WITH CODE OF CONDUCT.

7. WFTU WELCOMED EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE, PARTICULARLY THE "NEEDS OF BROAD POPULAR MASSES." RATHER THAN LOOKING ONLY AT THE CONOMIC SITUATION OF GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE, THERE WAS A NEED TO LOOK AS WELL AT INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, AND THUS TO PROMOTE JUSTICE WITHIN COUNTRIES. VANDEN HEUVEL

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